Mrs. Bowser was in tears.

The cat was in tears.

it was from her mother, and read hat the old lady was very ill. "By heck!" said Mr. Bowser. "Ain't it awful!" sobbed Mrs. Bow

ser.
"It surely is," he replied, and mag-

"It surely is," he replied, and magnanimously added:
"She's my mother-in-law, of course, and she never visits us except to make things uncomfortable for me, but I'll forgive her. I'll not only forgive her, but as you are not feeling well I'll run up to Concord and see just how she is and chirk her up all I can."
"You—you don't mean it!" gasped Mrs. Bowser in the greatest astonishment.

"Why, of cour: I do: Just throw a few things in the satchel for me and I'll take the night train up. I haven't been out of town for a year, and I shall rather enjoy a short trip." "But I'm afraid you can't sleep on

the sleeping car."
"I'll sleep like a top. It's all set-

"I'll sleep like a top. It's all set-tled that I go."

And two hours later Mr. Bowser was a passenger aboard the night train enjoying the feeling that a good action always brings happiness. Ev-ery berth in his sleeper was taken, and there were several children and there were several children aboard. He made friends with two or three from the start, and before the train had gone fifty miles he was gratified on hearing one mother say

to another:

"Now there's a man who makes his home and his whole neighborhood happy. I don't believe that anything ever puts him out, or that he has a cross word for anybody."

Mr. Bowser was in the habit of tumbling i to bed, rolling on his back and falling asleep within five minutes. As soon as he strikes the bed the family cat, rats, and mice walk about on tiptoe, and the grocery wagons, butcher carts and fire engines never pass his house if it can be avoided. The small boy who would dare utter one "coo-ee" in front of his house after 10 o'clock at night would realize that he was taking his life in his hands. He got into his berth in the sleeper expecting the usual results to follow, but somewhat to lis surprise they didn't. As is usually the case, two or three men were not yet ready to turn in, and they began discussing politics. Every word was audible from end to end of the car. For about ten minutes Mr. Bowser wondered over their impudence. For five more he was amazed at their disregard for the rights of others. Then he jumped to the conclusion that it was a personal rights of others. Then he jumped to the conclusion that it was a personal matter, and he called the porter and

"This is the sleeping car. I have gone to bed to sleep. Those men must shut up or get out!"

"Yes, sah," replied the porter, and he went off about his business instead of delivering the message. He had been on a sleeping car long enough to know that twenty-three people had no rights in case the twenty-fourth didn't feel sleepy. The discussion continued

berth and exclaimed:
"Are you fellows going to keep that chatter up all night? How does it happen that you didn't take the hog

There was an exchange of courtesies. The language was vigorous. Mr. Bowser was derided and defied, but his dander was up, and he called the porter and conductor and insisted to strenuously on his rights that the political discussion came to an end. As a wind-up, however, Mr. Bowser was called a crank, a kicker, and a cheese-head, and was advised to go off in a lonely spot by himself. There had been seven or eight minutes of comparative quiet and his eyes were closing in sleep when a man in the opposite berth began to snore, and pretty soon the snore was ornamented with a gurgle.

Kick. The train hadn't left the station ten miles when there was a bump on the floor of the car, followed by a yell. One of the children had fallen out of bed.

"In the name of mercy what's that!" almost howled Mr. Bowser as the curtains parted again.

"Look here, old man," answered a masculine voice, "you seem worried. Why don't you shut up and go to sleep!"

"Because I ve got to murder seven or eight people before I'll be allowed to go to sleep, and don't you tell me to shut up!"

There was a bump on the floor of the car, followed by a yell. One of the children had fallen out of bed.

"In the name of mercy what's that!" almost howled Mr. Bowser as the curtains parted again.

"Look here, old man," answered a masculine voice, "you seem worried. Why don't you shut up and go to sleep!"

"Because I ve got to murder seven or eight people before I'll be allowed to go to sleep, and don't you tell me to shut up!"

the victory was his. This time quistness brought sleep, but sleep lasted
forty winks. The wall of a child
brought Mr. Bowser's eyes open; a
second wall sat him up, and a third
caused him to exclaim:

"Have I got to murder some one on
this car before I can get an hour's
sleep? Where's the mother of that
young 'un that she don't stop his

"Seems to be ill? Don't you know whether he is or not? If he is sick get up and attend to him. If he's only dreaming give him a cuff and wake him up. By Jackson, but why the law allows a woman to gad about the country with a child I can't under-

the reply. "Yes, but are the people at the de



THESE MEN MUST EITHER SHUT UP OR GET OUT!

pot allowed to whoop and chatter and scream and wake up every sleeper in the cars? Fine managed road this. What's that rumbling and banging and flashing?"

"Loadin' up the baggage."

"Oh, is it? In order to load up a few old trunks they must hustle and bang and stand everybody's hair up. I'd like to talk to the manager of this road for five minutes! And what's that dunderhead pounding on the wheel for?"

"Testin' 'em, sah."

"Well, I'd like to test him! By smoke, but the people of the United States are the biggest lot of fools on earth to put up with such impositions. I'll sue somebody tomorrow for \$50,-

earth to put up with such impositions. I'll sue somebody tomorrow for \$50,-000 damages."

There was yet another cause to kick. The train hadn't left the station ten miles when there was a bump on the floor of the car, followed by a yell. One of the children had fallen out of bed.

"In the name of means the car."

or eight people before I'll be allowed to go to sleep, and don't you tell me to shut up!"

The great horn spoon, but that's got to stop!" exclaimed Mr. Bowser as he sat up and poked his head out. "Here—you over there—stop that infernal baz-oo of yours! Porter, come here and rouse up that critter across the way!"

The "critter" was roused. He got in two more snores and three longdrawn groans before the dig in the ribs broke in on his slumbers. Then he indignantly demanded to know who had dared to disturb him.

"You were anoring," explained Mr. Bowser.

"Well, what of it? Is it any business of yours?"

"You bet it is! If you want to make a hog of yourself get off and take the stock train!"

The jaw lasted ten minutes, and as two-thirds of the passengers sided with Mr. Bowser, and as the snores diminished to sighs and gasps he felt that

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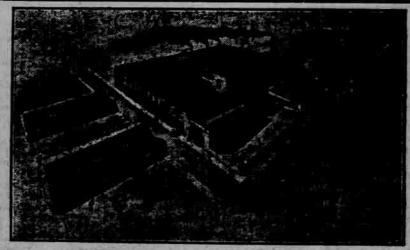


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